

First Nations Cultural Burning Revitalization Needs Assessment

WELCOME!

This survey is intended to identify needs in revitalizing cultural burning practices in First Nations communities throughout British Columbia (BC). The information gathered from this needs assessment is for internal use by the First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS). Specifically, your responses will help FNESS in making informed decisions as part of an on-going cultural burning revitalization program which includes taking into action the recommendations from the *2017 BC Flood and Wildfire Review* by Chief Maureen Chapman and George Abbott.

As part of the Indigenous Knowledge Burning Support Project, FNESS is advancing this cultural burning revitalization needs assessment survey – determining First Nations communities interest in prescribed fire planning/cultural burning practices. From there, the survey will then inform an engagement plan (includes hosting a series of regional community engagement sessions) and develop a training and education plan with regard to cultural burning practices, organizational skills development and capacity building for Nations across BC. Also, FNESS will be coordinating qualitative interviews on cultural burning practices with Elders and Fire Knowledge Holders from interested First Nations communities in BC.

FNESS recognizes that as part of climate change adaptation, there is growing interest being expressed by First Nations in revitalizing cultural burning as a tool to maintain or enhance cultural attributes while reducing risks associated with landscape and local-level hazards, and to regenerate ecosystems.

Furthermore, it is a goal of FNESS to support First Nations in BC to develop and implement customized community-based burn plans based on Indigenous cultural values and burning practices and non-Indigenous prescribed fire practices.

Your responses will help FNESS in understanding the state of First Nations cultural burning revitalization in BC.

This needs assessment survey will take approximately 20 - 25 minutes to complete

The data gathered from the survey will be summarized and formatted into a spreadsheet with responses for each individual question. It will also be summarized into tables, charts and graphs as a visual aid to read the survey results. Excluding any personal and confidential information, we will share the results with your Nation that will identify key areas and prioritize needs that are outlined in the results that will help us implement strategies for cultural burning revitalization.

Your participation is completely voluntary.

EXTENSION - Please submit your responses by Friday December 20, 2019 (11:59 pm Pacific Time).

For completing this survey, you are eligible to enter into a prize draw. If you are interested, at the end of the survey, please provide us with your full name, telephone number and email address to be entered into the draw for one of three (1 of 3) prizes. Prize #1: \$200 Visa gift card, Prize #2: \$100 Visa gift card, and Prize #3: \$50 Visa gift card.

Thank you in advance for participating in this survey!

First Nations Cultural Burning Revitalization Needs Assessment

SECTION 1: YOUR NATION

1. Is your Nation interested in revitalizing cultural burning?

Yes

No

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SECTION 1: YOUR NATION

* 2. Please indicate the reason(s) that your Nation is not interested in cultural burning revitalization.

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SECTION 1: YOUR NATION

3. Please state your Nation.

4. What are some of the main cultural activities that are carried out in your Nation? (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Berry picking | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ceremonies | <input type="checkbox"/> Language revitalization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crafting and artwork design | <input type="checkbox"/> Plant gathering for medicinal purposes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural burning | <input type="checkbox"/> Storytelling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Trapping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

5. Please indicate where your Nation is geographically located according to the Fire Centre region.

Note: When you click on the above "Fire Centre region" hyperlink, select "Map List" and then select the "BC Overview Map" icon. From there, zoom to the desired community to aid you in identifying your regional fire zone.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Cariboo | <input type="radio"/> Northwest |
| <input type="radio"/> Coastal | <input type="radio"/> Prince George |
| <input type="radio"/> Kamloops | <input type="radio"/> Southeast |

6. How would you describe your Nation?

- Urban (within 50 km of a major centre)
- Rural (between 50 km – 350 km from a major centre)
- Remote (over 350 km from a major centre)
- Air access (community is accessible by air only)

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SECTION 2: CLIMATE CHANGE AND WILDFIRES

Note: “bad fires” refer to unplanned, unwanted, out of control wildland fires - includes interface fires.

7. Are wildfires (aka. bad fires) affecting your Nation?

Yes

No

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SECTION 2: CLIMATE CHANGE AND WILDFIRES

8. How are wildfires (aka. bad fires) affecting your Nation? (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evacuation alert | <input type="checkbox"/> Destruction of property (e.g., homes, buildings and related infrastructure) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evacuation order | <input type="checkbox"/> Health issues (e.g., illness or injury due to breathing difficulties, exposure to smoke) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Destruction of culturally special areas (e.g., ceremonial and spiritual sites) | <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of life (e.g., death due to or related to wildfire) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

9. What is the Provincial Strategic Threat Assessment for your Nation?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Extreme | <input type="radio"/> Low |
| <input type="radio"/> High | <input type="radio"/> Do not know |
| <input type="radio"/> Moderate | |

10. What is your Nation's Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Risk Class?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> 1 - Higher relative risk | <input type="radio"/> 5 - Lowest relative risk |
| <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> Do not know |
| <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> Not applicable |
| <input type="radio"/> 4 | |

11. Does your Nation have a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

12. How current is your Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)?

- One to three years old
- Four to five years old
- Over six years old
- Do not know

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SECTION 3: CULTURAL BURNING – PAST PRACTICES

13. Has your Nation previously utilized cultural burning?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

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SECTION 3: CULTURAL BURNING – PAST PRACTICES

14. What were the reasons that your Nation previously engaged in cultural burning? (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural and language revitalization (e.g., use of traditional knowledge) | <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat enhancement (e.g., hunting and trapping) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food and medicinal plant gathering and access | <input type="checkbox"/> Pest reduction (e.g., reduce wood ticks) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forest product access (e.g., firewood collection) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ranching and cattle grazing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fuel mitigation/fuel hazard reduction | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail clearing and access |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

15. Where did cultural burning previously occur in your Nation? (Check all that apply)

- Reserve lands
- Off-reserve/Crown lands
- Community member's own property
- Other (please specify)

16. How did your Nation previously engage in cultural burning? (Check all that apply)

- Coordinated activity by a group of Nation members
- Coordinated activity by Nation members and other agencies (e.g., Government of BC)
- Coordinated activity by individual Nation members
- Other (please specify)

17. Who previously determined what areas in your Nation to burn for cultural reasons? (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Designated Elder(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Nation's Fire Department |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Designated Fire Knowledge Keeper(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Lands and Resource Management Department Representative(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chief and Council | <input type="checkbox"/> External Consultant (e.g., Registered Professional Forester – RPF) |

Other (please specify)

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SECTION 4: CULTURAL BURNING – CURRENT PRACTICES

18. Is your Nation currently utilizing cultural burning practices?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

First Nations Cultural Burning Revitalization Needs Assessment

SECTION 4: CULTURAL BURNING – CURRENT PRACTICES

19. What are the reasons that your Nation currently utilizes cultural burning? (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural and language revitalization (e.g., use of traditional knowledge) | <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat enhancement (e.g., hunting and trapping) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food and medicinal plant gathering and access | <input type="checkbox"/> Pest reduction (e.g., reduce wood ticks) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forest product access (e.g., firewood collection) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ranching and cattle grazing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fuel mitigation/fuel hazard reduction | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail clearing and access |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

20. How does your Nation currently engage in cultural burning? (Check all that apply)

- Coordinated activity by a group of Nation members
- Coordinated activity by Nation members and other agencies (e.g., Government of BC)
- Coordinated activity by individual Nation members
- Other (please specify)

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SECTION 4: CULTURAL BURNING – CURRENT PRACTICES

21. Who **currently** determines what areas in your Nation to burn for cultural reasons? (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Designated Elder(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Nation's Fire Department |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Designated Fire Knowledge Keeper(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Lands and Resource Management Department Representative(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chief and Council | <input type="checkbox"/> External Consultant (e.g., Registered Professional Forester – RPF) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

22. Does your Nation have a role in granting permission to engage in cultural burning on reserve lands?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

23. Are members of your Nation certified wildland firefighters, either with the British Columbia Wildfire Service, or on contract with local certified firefighting crews?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

24. Does your Nation have a certified wildland fire crew?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

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SECTION 4: CULTURAL BURNING – CURRENT PRACTICES

25. Approximately how many people currently comprise your Nation's certified wildland fire crew?

26. What are the challenges/barriers in revitalizing cultural burning practices in your Nation? (Check all that apply)

- A community burn plan has not been developed for our Nation.
- A community burn plan is developed but our Nation lacks funding for burn plan implementation.
- Our Nation lacks the capacity to develop a community burn plan. *[Note: capacity includes knowledge/skills development, burn plan prescription, fuel treatment, tools/equipment/supplies, human resources/staffing and finances/funding]*
- Our Nation lacks the capacity to implement a community burn plan. *[Note: capacity includes knowledge/ skills development, burn plan prescription, fuel treatment, tools/equipment/supplies, human resources/staffing and finances/funding]*
- Cultural burning revitalization is not viewed as a high priority in our Nation.
- Our Nation lacks leadership (e.g., Band/Tribal Council) to support cultural burning revitalization our Nation.
- Our Nation lacks up-to-date training and skills development on cultural burning practices.
- The fuel loads in our Nation are too high due to changes in climate and landscape.
- Our Nation and surrounding communities are too densely populated.
- Other (please specify)

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SECTION 5: INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION

27. Does your Nation work with other agencies in carrying out cultural burning?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

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SECTION 5: INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION

28. Who does your Nation work with in carrying out cultural burning? (Check all that apply)

- First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS)
 Government of Canada (e.g., Indigenous Services Canada)
- First Nations fire department
 Municipal/Regional District fire department
- Government of BC (e.g., BC Wildfire Service)
 Neighbouring First Nations
- Other (please specify)

29. In general, does your Nation know about the services, information and related resources provided by each professional organization?

	Yes	No
Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
BC Wildfire Service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fire Chiefs' Association of British Columbia	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
First Nations' Emergency Services Society	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Indigenous Fire Marshal Office	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

30. In general, does your Nation utilize the services, information and related resources provided by each professional organization?

	Yes	No
Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
BC Wildfire Service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fire Chiefs' Association of British Columbia	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
First Nations' Emergency Services Society	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Indigenous Fire Marshal Office	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

31. Has your Nation worked with BC Wildfire Service with any prescribed burn planning?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

32. Has your Nation worked with BC Wildfire Service with any prescribed burning implementation?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

33. Have BC Wildfire Service representative(s) contacted your Nation about utilizing prescribed burning?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

34. Have BC Wildfire Service representative(s) visited your Nation about utilizing prescribed burning?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

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SECTION 6: FUNDING

35. In general, does your Nation know about the following funding opportunities related to cultural burning revitalization?

	Yes	No
Community Resiliency Investment Program (Union of BC Municipalities)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Wildfire Program (Columbia Basin Trust)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
First Nation Adapt Program (Indigenous Services Canada)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nation-financed (funding provided by your Nation)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
On-Reserve Fuel Reduction Initiative (Indigenous Services Canada)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

36. In general, does your Nation access the following funding opportunities related to cultural burning revitalization?

	Yes	No
Community Resiliency Investment Program (Union of BC Municipalities)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Wildfire Program (Columbia Basin Trust)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
First Nation Adapt Program (Indigenous Services Canada)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nation-financed (funding provided by your Nation)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
On-Reserve Fuel Reduction Initiative (Indigenous Services Canada)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

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SECTION 7: CAPACITY BUILDING, TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

37. Is your Nation interested in training, skills development and related technical assistance to support cultural burning revitalization?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

38. Has your Nation already participated in training and skills development to support cultural burning revitalization?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

39. To date, what type of training and skills development has your Nation received to support cultural burning revitalization? (Check all that apply)

- Wildfire firefighter training
- Prescribed burning
- Fuel management
- Fire behaviour
- Other (please specify)

40. In the future, what type of training and skills development is your Nation interested in receiving to support cultural burning revitalization? (Check all that apply)

- Wildfire firefighter training
- Prescribed burning
- Fuel management
- Fire behaviour
- Other (please specify)

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SECTION 7: CAPACITY BUILDING, TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

41. Based on your experience, if FNESS and BCWS were to specifically offer the following services, what is the overall value of each of the following items, in terms of supporting cultural burning revitalization in your Nation?

	Not valuable	Slightly valuable	Undecided	Moderately valuable	Very valuable
Self-guided preparation tools (note: guidance on identifying, collecting and organizing required burn plan documentation in either online and/or in hard copy format)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mock surveys (note: a service provided by FNESS and/or BCWS whereby Nations are taken through a type of assessment to determine whether they are ready to prepare and implement a community burn plan)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coaching/mentoring (note: a service provided by FNESS and/or BCWS in which Nations who engage in cultural burning practices share knowledge and provide information and guidance to assist other Nations in preparing and implementing a community burn plan)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Standards/manuals (note: purpose of cultural burning, and types and forms of documentation that demonstrate compliance to prepare and implement a community burn plan)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Not valuable Slightly valuable Undecided Moderately valuable Very valuable

Site visits/survey (note: preparation and planning for a cultural burn)

Training events (note: on-line and/or in-person training events that describe the purpose of cultural burning standards, and types and forms of documentation that demonstrate compliance to prepare and implement a community burn plan, and review of sample burn plan documents)

Ongoing support from external organizations such as FNESS and BCWS (note: identification of possible areas in need of improvement in readiness for a cultural burn)

Other (please specify)

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SECTION 8: CULTURAL BURNING REVITALIZATION

42. What is your level of agreement or disagreement with the associated statements in relation to cultural burning revitalization?

	I strongly disagree	I disagree	I am undecided (Neither disagree nor agree)	I agree	I strongly agree
Our Nation's vision, mission, values and goals support the revitalization of cultural burning practices.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Our Nation has the necessary <u>capacity</u> (e.g., technical, human and financial resources) to support cultural burning revitalization.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Our Nation has the necessary <u>competencies</u> (e.g., knowledge, skills and abilities) to support cultural burning revitalization.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Our Nation's leadership and staff are actively engaged in cultural burning revitalization.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Our Nation collects and analyzes diverse information and data to support cultural burning revitalization.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Our Nation has a governance system in place to support cultural burning revitalization.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Our Nation has policies and procedures to support cultural burning revitalization.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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SECTION 9: FURTHER DISCUSSION

43. Is your Nation interested in participating in FNESS-coordinated regional engagement sessions about cultural burning revitalization?

- Yes
 No
 Maybe

44. Is your Nation interested in participating in cultural burning revitalization community interviews?

- Yes
 No
 Maybe

45. Do you have any general questions, comments or concerns about cultural burning revitalization to aid FNESS in its needs assessment?

46. If you are interested in participating in a cultural burning revitalization community interview and/or you would like your general questions answered directly by FNESS, please provide us with your name, telephone number and email address.

Name

Email Address

Phone Number

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PRIZE DRAW ENTRY

For completing this survey, you are eligible to enter into a prize draw for one of three (1 of 3) prizes:

Prize #1: \$200 Visa Gift Card

Prize #2: \$100 Visa Gift Card

Prize #3: \$50 Visa Gift Card

Please note that this page will NOT be connected in any way with your previous survey responses.

47. If you are interested, please provide us with your full name, telephone number and email address to be entered into the draw for one of three (1 of 3) prizes.

Name

Email Address

Phone Number